(d) Consignments of imported food articles are to be checked/ analyzed by the Custom authorities to ensure the compliance of provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 and Packaged Commodities Rules, 1977, before releasing the same for human consumption in the country.

(e) and (f) The States/ Union Territories Governments who are responsible for enforcement of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and rules made thereunder are taking random samples of different articles of food including imported food available in the market and take necessary penal action against the offenders under the law for any violation. The Food (Health)Authorities of the States/Union Territories have been advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil and quality of different food articles sold in market and take penal action against the offender for any violation of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and rules made thereunder.

Implementation of NFSA

2516. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Competent Authority has implemented National Food Security Act;

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(c) whether quantity of foodgrains now allotted to BPL families will be reduced after the implementation of National Food Security Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether alterations in the National Food Security Act had been suggested by State Governments/agencies/individuals; and

(f) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (f) At present Government is examining various aspects of the proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA), including number of Below Poverty Line families to be covered, scale of issue of foodgrains, etc in consultation with various stake-holders.

Based on a concept note circulated to State/Union Territory Governments on the proposed law, their responses have been received. They are also under examination.

Hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities

2517. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: